

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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In re Patent Application of:  
Kenji Kondo et al.

Application No.: 10/509,462

Confirmation No.: 2198

Filed: September 28, 2004

Art Unit: 2624

For: Image Processing Method, Image  
Processing Apparatus, Image Capturing  
Apparatus, Image Output Apparatus, And Iris  
Authentication Apparatus

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Examiner: Arron W. Carter

**FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

MS Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 11 of this paper.